

News Release



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Photographs Available

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center Reopens

BORREGO SPRINGS -- California State Parks announces the grand re-opening of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center on Friday and Saturday, October 7 and 8. The center has undergone a \$1.5 million renovation funded by the 2000 Parks and Water Bond Act. Visitors will be treated to an enticing array of museum exhibit experiences, including a slot canyon, a palm oasis and a re-creation of the park's Coyote Canyon. The seventeen-foot wingspan of *Aiolornis incredibilis*, a stalking bird from the Pleistocene era, dominates the new lobby.

According to project manager Joanie Cahill, "Each of the exhibits focuses on a specific area of the park and tells the story of how geologic changes through time have affected the landscape, climate and life forms of Anza-Borrego." Several real fossils are displayed, including mammoth, zebra and camel skulls found in the park. A short animated video shows what the park might have looked like over the last several million years. Artifacts from a 1984 excavation of the Mine Wash Indian Village will also be on display with the new exhibits.

Outdoor improvements include two all-access trails with interpretive panels and rest stops. Panels on the "Campground Trail" feature Braille printing. Both the visitor center and native plant garden are wheelchair accessible.

The weekend events include the premiere of a new movie short about the life of author and artist Marshal South on Friday evening along with free music, appetizers and roaming naturalists. On Saturday, there will be lectures, children's activities and a free ice cream social sponsored by the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute. For more information visit the park's website at www.anzaborrego.statepark.org or call (760) 767-4205. A complete schedule of events follows:

Grand Reopening Activity Schedule Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Friday, October 7, 2005

1 – 2 p.m.

Dedication, speeches, opening remarks

2 – 7 p.m.

Door prizes (hourly drawings)

Scavenger hunt (self-guided through exhibits, small prizes for completion)

4 p.m.

Short movie on Marshal South - premiere for Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute members followed by a private reception

5 p.m.

Marshal South Movie premiere (with a few words from Diana Lindsay)

5:30 – 7 p.m.

Music, appetizers, door prizes in plaza, naturalist carts

Visitor Center open until 7 p.m. Community groups specially invited

Saturday, October 8, 2005

9 a.m – 5 p.m.

Door prizes

Scavenger hunt with prizes

10 a.m. Interpretive Program –Paul Remeika on “Geology of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park”

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Naturalist stations throughout the visitor center

Free face painting

Kid’s craft station

Free ice water

12 p.m.

Interpretive program - Diana Lindsay on Marshal South

2 p.m.

Ice Cream Social, free ice cream until it runs out (plaza)

3 p.m.

Interpretive program - Mark Jorgensen on Desert Bighorn

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